THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Forward trading in food grains has a long tradition dating back to 19th Century. The objectives of futures trading in commodities are Price Discovery and Price Risk Management with respect to the underlying commodity.

(c) The farmers, exporters, importers, processors, stockists etc. can derive benefits from these markets through price signals emanating from commodity futures market and also by hedging their price risk.

(d) Futures prices are largely determined by the interplay of various factors such as expected price based on demand and supply scenario, cost of carrying the goods, perceptions of the market participants, international prices etc. In view of this, there is generally a difference between futures prices and prices in the physical market.

Onions as essential commodities

2775. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Central Government to declare onions as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(b) whether the State Government has also requested the Central Government to consider feasibility of importing onions from China and alloting it to Andhra Pradesh at Vizag Port for release to the consumers at the subsidized rate of Rs. 7 per kg. under the Public Distribution System;

(c) the response of Government to parts (a) and (b) above; and

(d) the action taken, so far, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request was received vide letter dated 24.10.2005 from the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh.

In the aforementioned letter a request was also made for sufficient allotment of imported onions to Andhra Pradesh so as to make it available to the consumers at reasonable price.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh was advised that if they desired they could continue distribution of onions through its PDS and NAFED would be willing to help out.

"Foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils" are listed at Sl. No. 3 of the Schedule to EC (Amendment) Act, 2006, as essential commodities.

FCI godowns

2776. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of godowns of the Food Corporation of India in the country place-wise and State-wise at present and the quantity of foodgrains stored therein;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains damaged in these godowns each year during the last three years, State-wise and place-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether these godowns are in poor condition; if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve their conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New stock wheat declaration order

2777. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued a new stock wheat declaration order under which weekly filing of return is compulsory for anyone with cumulative buying of 50,000 tonnes of wheat in 2007-08 Rabi season; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?